

don't want a government takeover of health care.

If you listen to the American people, what they're saying very loudly and clearly is scrap this bill. Let's go back to the table and start over again.

Now, Speaker PELOSI and her liberal lieutenants might run Congress, but the American people run this country, and their voices will be heard.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, every time I hear a Republican talking about health care reform, they say the American people don't want it. They say it so much that I think they're beginning to try to convince themselves that it's true. But there's a national poll that shows what the real story is.

They asked, of all the people who are opposed to health care or say they are, how many are opposed to it because they don't think it goes far enough. Forty percent. Almost 40 percent said that was the reason. They will not be unhappy when we pass health care reform. They will be ecstatic, like the shopkeeper I talked to over Christmas who said she was against what we're doing because she has diabetes and she can't wait 4 years for the help she needs.

No, the American people will applaud us when we pass comprehensive health care reform, and I will consider it the proudest moment of my service.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, as I walk across back and forth from the Cannon Building to come to this Chamber, there is a wall in the steam tunnel of all of these different pictures that are painted by our high school students, and one continues to arrest my progress.

A beautiful little redheaded girl about 17 years old who looks like my daughter, and has beautiful lighting on her face. And as you look into her face, she has a profound sadness there. And the thought has crossed my mind that that's how my daughters will look if this bill passes with government rationing of health care, with the budget busted, with the destruction of our economy, and unemployment out of control.

We need to fix health care, but we don't need to destroy American health care or the American economy. That would be sad indeed.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Members, we, as Members of Congress, this week have a choice. We have a choice between voting with the people who need health care or voting with the insurance corporations who have fouled this system up for decades.

The bill that we're going to deal with, the consumers select their insurance plan and their company. Consumers select their doctors. Consumers make treatment decisions with their doctors. Consumers will keep coverage they have if they change their jobs.

The insurance companies will have less control. Insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage or revoke coverage for preexisting conditions. Insurance companies will no longer be allowed to cap medical costs that people run into all the time for treatment. Insurance companies will no longer be allowed to drop coverage when you get sick. Insurance companies will have to compete for business.

That's why we have a choice. Whose side is your Member of Congress on, with the people who need health care or the ones who want to sell it?

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#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. The gentleman from Missouri earlier gave a lovely image, and I would like to use image as well. I would like to use the image of President Obama saying over and over and over to the American people, "If you like your health insurance, you can keep it." And this bill does not fulfill the President's promise.

Yesterday in the House Budget Committee we worked for 8 hours to instruct the Rules Committee on how to make this a better bill. And we asked them to make the President's promise come true, to pass an amendment that says if you like your health insurance you can keep it. And that was killed on a party-line vote, with all of the Republicans voting to help the President fulfill his promise to the American people and the Democrats voting against it. This bill does not fulfill the President's promise that if you like your insurance you can keep it.

I urge that we kill this misguided health care bill.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. In listening to this debate back and forth, I can't help but be struck by the fact that many of the arguments from the other side of the aisle are simply not arguments against this health care bill. I have heard people rail against a government takeover

of health care. Well, this bill actually helps reduce the number of people that depend on government programs for their health care. This bill will help end reliance on government for health care.

I have heard people say that this is somehow a rush to get to a bill. Well, we have been working on this for well over a year. When we first started over a year ago, I had calls to my office saying, "Why are you going so quickly? Why don't you slow down and get it right?" Now I am getting a lot of calls to my office saying, "Pass health care already. It's all you've been talking about."

It is time to pass this bill because what is in it is popular with the American people: letting kids and young people stay on their parents' policy until they are 26, ending pricing discrimination based upon preexisting conditions, helping make insurance more affordable for people who are self-employed and in small businesses. That is what is in this bill, and that is what the American people support.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. WHITFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, since the founding of this great country, representatives of the people have come to this floor, this Chamber, to debate legislation and either vote for it or against it. If you support legislation, stand up and support it. If you are opposed to it, stand up and oppose it.

But today's Washington Post says that House Speaker NANCY PELOSI suggested Monday that she might attempt to pass the health care bill without having Members vote on it. Instead, she would rely on a procedural sleight of hand: The House would vote on a more popular piece of legislation, but under the House rule for that vote, passage would signify that lawmakers "deem" the health care bill to be passed. Speaker PELOSI added that she prefers this tactic because it would politically protect lawmakers who are reluctant to publicly support the health care bill. She says, "It's more insider and process-oriented than most people want to know, but I like it because people don't have to vote on the health care bill."

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. My voice is not quite clear, but I hope, Madam Speaker, that you can hear me.

We are hearing so much talk, and you know why? Because we are at a point where we are going to choose consumers over insurance companies. And it is time for that to happen. Insurance companies have held this public hostage for many years, controlling